

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
VEHICLE VENDOR MEETING**
TXDOT
200 E. RIVERSIDE DR., AUSTIN, TX
MARCH 6, 2003
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

-Vendor attendees were asked to introduce themselves and make suggestions for items of discussion.

-A presentation along with handout was given regarding TxDOT/PTN's mission, "Sticker Situation" and Railroad Commission's inspection, 2003 VCR Program vehicle purchases, 2003 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Program setting up contracts, Paratransit Van specifications, Request for Information, Training and Conversion Updates.

- Troy Raley, Lasseter Bus Co. asked if sticker requirement was mandated. Asked for contact person at RRC.
- Paul asked for assistance from vendors regarding the solicitation of training service, maintenance, etc. after sale.
- A few vendors reported that they currently offer this service. Darryl Rickaway, Texas Bus Sales stated that they usually don't respond to this service due to funding issues. Linda Taylor, One Stop Bus Stop is currently providing maintenance service to school districts.
- Paul asked if any were currently providing Alt Fuel training to their mechanics. Darryl Rickaway, Texas Bus Sales is providing this training. Others noted that they are in the process.
- Bill Calvert, Bachman AFV stated they are currently offering their staff customer training to help make product more assessable. Currently offering engine certification. Moving operation center to Texas, specifically the Dallas area. Will be up and running in 60 days. Other operations located in California and New York. Noted that there will be a possibility of additional warranty service in the future.
- Tom Campbell, Parnell USA, Inc. discussed certification for propane conversions and what they offer. Setting up multiple service centers throughout state. Warranty wise, they are not self insured. They are insurance backed. Offering extended warranty service.
- Discussion was held regarding bus conversion and specifications. Specifically, amount of occupants per vehicle.
- At this time, Paul suggested to skip over warranty issues and go over specifications issues.

- Paul reported that Alt Fuel training is in the specifications as part of the delivery process, which will require 2 hours of refueling instructions and 4 hours of maintenance and diagnostic training.
- Jack Harrison, Harrison and Associates, stated that they along with the RRC train operators on Alt Fuel.

Paul distributed the specs on Tank Configurations and Options List.

- Paul asked for any concerns/problems/suggestions.
- Darryl Rickaway, Texas Bus Sales reported that the addition of any bracketry would weigh down the tank.
- Long discussion over floor plans and weight distribution. Mr. Manzi (Starcraft Bus & Mobility) asked for a solution.
- Paul suggested perhaps keeping specifications, but recommending a different tanks. John Manzi, strongly disagreed. Stated that none of the specifications fit. Mr. Manzi suggested adding a longer wheelbase. Due to need for standardization, Paul said this would not be adopted.
- Long discussion over floor plans and weight distribution. Mr. Manzi asked for a solution.
- Paul reported on procurement organization & bidding process. Decentralized program. To continue procurement process we will continue with the “Model Procurement”. PTN will give notice on pre-bid conferences being held in San Antonio (Community Council of SWT) & Lubbock (South Plains). Suggested that vendors have an alternate tank configuration or floor plan if the one specified can not meet be provided by their manufacturer.
- Paul stated that PTN will come up with 6 floor plans and post on website. There will be 2 for each of the 3 wheelbases: one with the lift in the middle & one with the lift in the back of vehicle. (*Update: South Plains has selected the first floor plan, and agencies are being asked to use this floor plan, or offer an alternative, but this must be submitted to PTN through the district. This is an attempt at standardization.*)

Paul distributed specs minus option handouts. Reminded vendors that deadline for RFI and change for specs are due by the 21st of March.

2:45 p.m.

At this time, a break was taken and the [second half of the meeting](#) will cover changes to specifications.